12 MONTHS OF RESEARCH SAFETY
OCTOBER 2023
BIOSAFETY & BIOSECURITY MONTH

Each year, October is designated Biosafety & Biosecurity Month by the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA). To mark this October, here are some biosafety & biosecurity reminders for all laboratorians.

When is a Biological Use Authorization (BUA) Required?

All teaching and research laboratories that use or store biohazardous materials must submit a Biological Use Authorization (BUA) application to the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC). The term "biohazardous materials" includes recombinant/synthetic nucleic acid molecules, potentially infectious organisms, human and non-human primate materials, and other materials that may have a public health or environmental impact. For more information or to find out how to submit a BUA, visit https://ehs.ucr.edu/laboratory/biosafety/bua or contact EH&S Biosafety at ehsbiosafety@ucr.edu.

Biohazardous and Medical Waste Requirements

How to Dispose of Biohazardous/Medical Waste?

- **Liquid** biohazardous and medical waste should be decontaminated with 10% bleach final concentration (30 minutes contact time) and then disposed of down the sink followed by an abundance of water ***if*** no chemical or radiological hazards are present. Liquid waste contaminated with either chemical or radiological hazards should be disposed through EH&S using the WASTe system.
- **Solid** biohazardous and medical waste should be packaged in RED biohazardous bags and placed in provided collection waste bins for pick up by EH&S. Red bags must meet *ASTM D1709* & *ASTM D1922* Standards. For state & federal permit holders that require waste to be autoclaved, follow your permit terms and these guidelines.
- **Sharps** waste should go into approved sharps containers.

How to Request Pickup From EH&S?

- Biohazardous waste collection bins are located throughout laboratory buildings and are picked up once a week based on a set schedule. To submit a special pick up request, log into the WASTe system to generate waste tags and request pick up.
- Further information on navigating WASTe, including a video tutorial, can be found here.

CONTACT US

Phone: 951-827-5528
Email: ehsbiosafety@ucr.edu
Website: https://ehs.ucr.edu/laboratory/biosafety
Report an Incident, Injury or Safety Concern Here

Questions?

UC RIVERSIDE Environmental Health & Safety

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Maintaining Biosafety Cabinet (BSC) Certification

Why is certification important?

- Biological safety cabinets (BSCs) are designed to provide protection against biological hazards. Class II cabinets, which are the most common on campus, provides 3 levels of protection: personnel, product, and environmental.
- Annual testing is required to ensure the cabinets are working correctly and to meet regulatory compliance.
- For more information on BSC functionality, see our BSC page.

How to contact a certifier?

- UC has a contract with Technical Safety Services (TSS) for UC pricing.
  - **Phone**: (562) 526-7835 or (909) 923-1988

Sharps Safety

Sharps injuries are among the most commonly reported injuries in research and clinical settings

How to Prevent Injuries and Illness:

1. Eliminate or Substitute Sharps
   - Eliminate sharps from procedure whenever possible.
   - Use blunt tip needles instead of sharp needles.
   - Use safety-engineered sharps such as protective sheath or retractable needle syringes.
2. Avoid Altering or Modifying Needles
   - Do not break or shear needle from syringe hub.
   - Do not bend needles.
   - Do not remove needle from disposable syringe.
3. Avoid Recapping
   - Do **NOT** recap needles for disposal and whenever possible during procedures.
   - If recapping is required for a procedure, use a recapping device or the one-hand scoop method. Never recap needles using one hand to hold the cap and the other to hold the needle/syringe!

Recapping Device

One-hand Scoop

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